

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

DDI #7020-82

30 August 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

25X1 FROM : [REDACTED]  
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT : NIO Monthly Warning Assessments: August

1. The reports on the NIO warning meetings are attached.
2. Comments on warning situations.

a. Lebanon:

(1) Israeli warnings about Palestinian ceasefire violations in the Bekaa Valley and reinforcement of military positions facing the Syrians suggest that the Begin government is preparing the ground for a concerted political-military offensive to force the withdrawal of all PLO and Syrian forces from Lebanon. Israel's initial move may be to demand the withdrawal of Syrian forces from the Sannin Ridge which dominates Maronite territory and to extend Israeli control along the Beirut-Damascus highway to include the Christian city of Zahle.

(2) The Syrians also are reinforcing their strength in the Bekaa Valley, suggesting that the Assad regime believes it must mount stronger resistance to a new Israeli offensive than it did in June.

(3) Renewed fighting among Lebanese factions, primarily between Phalange and leftist Muslim militias, could quickly draw Israel and Syrian into a major military confrontation.

b. Iran-Iraq:

(1) A breakpoint may be approaching in Iranian policy, particularly if the Iraqis again repulse a new Iranian attack

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which probably will be launched in the next two weeks. The Iranians are experiencing ammunition shortages, a serious attrition of skilled manpower, and problems in recruiting revolutionary guards.

(2) Another Iranian failure could lead the Khomeini regime to threaten the Gulf states with reprisals if they do not cut off aid to Iraq. We cannot rule out an Iranian blockade of Gulf ports or at least a token closure of the Straits of Hormuz.

(3) There is some possibility that further military setbacks will trigger a political upheaval in the divided Iranian regime, including attempts to assassinate Khomeini or other leading clerics.

c. Poland:

(1) Although the martial law regime probably will be able to avert serious disturbances on Solidarity's second anniversary, the use of harsh repressive measures may precipitate massive protest demonstrations and strikes.

(2) Successful intimidation tactics in preventing or containing demonstrations on 31 August will not deter underground Solidarity leaders from maintaining pressure on the government through minor protests and the threat of a general strike.

d. Nicaragua-Honduras:

(1) The potential for Nicaraguan cross-border raids or artillery strikes on anti-Sandinista camps in Honduras remains high, but there are no indications of Nicaraguan preparations for a major offensive.

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